GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2402
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2001
STARVATION DEATHS
A.K. PREMAJAM

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Adivasi Youth to go on the offensive` appearing in `The Hindu` dated September 3,2001 regarding starvation deaths in Kerala;

(b)if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c)whether the Adivasis who constitute one percent of the Kerala population are the worst hit section of the State; and

(d)if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The matter reported is about the allegedly negligent attitude of the State Government regarding the reported starvation deaths in the State.

A Central Sector Scheme for setting up of village grain banks in tribal villages was launched in 1996-97 in selected areas out of the areas identified by Central Planning Committee (CPC) for preventive measures against death of tribal people by providing a safe-guard against fall in nutritional standards. The Scheme provides that villagers in identified areas can form a committee and set up grain banks in villages. This Ministry provides one time 100% grant for setting up grain banks @ 100 Kg of locallyconsumed food grains per family. The members can borrow from this bank in time of need and repay after harvest or getting income as wages. Under the scheme, funds are released to the State Governments through Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED). 16 Blocks of 5 districts in Kerala have been identified by CPC. However, the list is only indicative and no exhaustive. Funds released by TRIFED to the State Government of Kerala for the targets specified and the number of the Grain Banks established since 1996-97 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Year	No. Sanctioned	No. of families to be benefited	Amount released	No. set up
Kerala	1996-97	2	200	1.28	2
	1997-98	3	300	1.92	3
	2000-01	3	1674	10.16	Report yet to be received
	Total	8	2174	13.36	5